

GREAT XMAS SALE

LAWSON AND SMITH'S
 AUCTION ROOMS, 124, 126 FIFTH STREET
 (near Election Court)
 THIS DAY
 FRIDAY, 30th DECEMBER,
 AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.
 MAGNIFICENT EXHIBITION AND DISPLAY
 RARE AND BEAUTIFUL ART EFFORTS,
 ORIENTAL ART, AND SUPERB ARTICLES,
 highly valuable for
 XMAS AND VERY EARLY GIFTS.
 TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION,
 WITHOUT ANY RESERVE.
 THIS SUPERB COLLECTION
 comprises—
 Very Handsome Vases, Urns, Flower Pots, Tea Services,
 Regal-china China Cups and Saucers, Dinner and
 Dessert Services,
 COSTLY CARVED CABINETS,
 FINEST CHINA, &c. &c.

MIRSCH, WALL, CARHART,
 Handmade Toys.
 EXHAUSTIVE CLAUSSON'S WARE.
 VERY HEAVY L. ENHANCED GREEN
 (in great variety).
 SETS CURTAINS AND TABLE COVERS,
 with Handkerchiefs, Hanging Tapestries,
 etc.
 An Endless Variety of
 ORIENTAL ART EFFECTS.
 Also,
 10 VALUABLE PIANOFORTES.
 Wmmer, Mignon, new-born, Japan, French, Engl.,
 and others.
 The instruments are in first-class order, and can be
 highly recommended.
 NO RESERVE.
 JAMES R. LAWSON
 (LAWSON AND SMITH)
 have been entrusted with instructions to conduct the above
 PORTANT SALE by auction, at 10 o'clock.
 * * ON PRIOR TO SALE.

THIS DAY, at 2.30 p.m.
AT OUR ROOMS
275 PITT-STREET,
NEXT DOORS TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS.
ABSOLUTELY UNRESERVED SALE
OF
PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGAN, &c., &c.
TO CLOSE ACCOUNTS.
UPRIGHT GRAND PIANOFORTE
by EMIL SCHREIBER,
SINGER at the City Theatre.
SAXONS.
HULLER.
AUG. HUMMEL.
BEST TONED AND SOFT,
NENRICH.
FIVE-TONED AMERICAN ORGAN
by the BRIDGEWATER Co., England.
HARMONICON by ALEXANDER
GENT & SONS, 21 Regent
LAWN, BRIGHTON.
GRAMMOPHON RECORDERS.

M. SYMONDS and Co.
have been instructed by the Vendor to
ABSOLUTELY SELL THE ABOVE
THIS DAY 22nd SEP.

ON VIEW FROM 10 A.M.

THIS DAY, TUESDAY 22nd, at 10 A.M.
On the Premises, FULFERT-HOARD, BIRKBEY, near
Close to the station

PERFUMERY, TOILET AND COSMETICS UNBROKEN
PALE OF THE FOLLOWING:
DRAWING-ROOM SET 13 pieces, Watford
Overmaned, Walnut
Belle-Sovereign Machine, Curative and Bland
RETINUED
Austrian Chair, Hooker, Lingerie and
Double and Single Bedsteads and Bedding
COMBINATION LOCKS, M^r W. WAREHAM'S
Chairs, Bedsteads, Coat and Bedding
Beds and Bedding, Cradles, etc.

A. J. JENKINS will sell, as above, THIS DAY,
N.B.—Train leaves Ipswich 10 A.M.
Fulford, Chas. — No Reserve

WILKINSON'S WHISKY has gained the highest
prize possible.

FOR ABSOLUTE SALE.

DORABEEN STATION,
near Canning, New South Wales.

GOLDSBOROUGH, MOIT, and CO., Limited, will offer by auction, at the Wool Exchange, Manchester, Sydney, on

WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY, 1906,
about 1100 Acres of Freehold Land,
DORABEEN STATION,
situated in the Land District of Canning, about
20 miles from Canning and 100 miles
about

1000 Acres Freehold Land,
2 Acres Selected Land,
12 50 Acres Arable Land,
The TOTAL consists of about 1100 bds of Cattle and
20 Horses.

THE COUNTRY is chiefly heavily and moderate rights.
The Freehold and 30 Acres are good, in the most of
the timberless land. Having from many years ago
ENCLOSING, the property is divided into 1000
with six acres and two rails and three rails, all good
pasture.

THE IMPROVEMENTS consist of comfortable homestead
of a roomy kitchen, dining room, veranda, and
etc., necessary for working the property.

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The Auctioneers desire to draw the special attention of
Particularists to the fact that they are prepared to receive bids
in writing at their office, a good estate is secured in all
drawing or lay-out.

For further particulars apply to
GOLDENROD, MITCHELL, AND CO., Ltd. (Solely)
or HENRY WOOD, Auctioneer,
FREDERICKSBURG ADVERTISEMENT.

AUCTION SALE OF
VALUABLE COPPER-MINED PROPERTY,

HILL, CLARK, AND CO. have received instructions to
dispose of by auction.
AT THE WOOL EXCHANGE,
the following valuable property
on a date to be named,
THE BELLA COPPER MINE,
with about 100 acres of Freehold Land.
Mine Buildings and several 100 acres of Pasture land.

SITUATED about 2 miles from Wellington, on the main road
leading to Mudgum.

THE IMPROVEMENTS consisted of Manager's Cottage,
Barn, Store, and other buildings, and a large building,
Blacksmith's shop, Tannery House, and a small building,
Porterage shed.

THE MINE has been worked up and is now ready to develop
into a fine business. The mine will drain, the water to

1800, and the others from 100 to 150 ft.
 Coal can be obtained very easily from either Wales or
 Warrington, and there is abundance of wood in the
 tract.
 For further particulars see future advertisements.
 All information from
 HILL, CLARE, and CO.,
 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.
 WILKINSON'S WHISKY, the finest that ever was
 blended in Glasgow.

**THERE IS ONLY ONE AND ONE ONLY
 PURE SPIRIT.**

**WOLFE'S
 SCHNAPPS.**

**WOLFE'S
 SCHNAPPS.**

Mr. G.
 NEW
 NEW
 NEW

a.news-page1357937

ward at 6 p.m. Departures: December 27, Wyoming, s., at 8.30 a.m., for Sydney; Industry, s., at 3 p.m., south.

[illegible]

Special Adv

[illegible]

Japan is unable to com-
municate. Power interested in

desirable one of this has always been recognised; but events of the last few years in the Pacific, and more particularly during the last few weeks, help to make us realise that the possibilities of this case are not so remote as the theories of costly fortifications, without sufficient forces to man them. Though we have something over 8000 men nominally being trained to the use of arms, and though we spend at the average rate of over £20 per man per year, we are not in a position to prove an examination that so far as the partially-paid branch of our forces is concerned we only pay for six hours' drill in the year to give us the efficiency we require. The partially-paid force, with its 1000 men, is not in a position to make use of all our available military strength, and really forms the colony's army; the Permanent Force proper being made up of instructors and administrators, while the Volunteers are without the regular training of the other two branches. The partially-paid men are expected to receive no more than six hours' drill in the year. It will thus be seen that it is not the arm that we mainly rely for the service our military forces are or may be expected to render, yet it is apparent from this branch that the want of a brunt of the expenditure of the economy in military expenditure has been done away with there is, it is true to be an Easter encampment next year, and all the authorities would be agreed that the maintenance of this as part of the training of the forces. Unfortunately, however, it has been found necessary to sacrifice the usual drills to the encampment.

It is manifestly unfair, of course, to lay the blame of this, especially the present Government. The onus of having stopped the annual encampment does not rest on its shoulders. At a time when retrenchment was certainly necessary it was decided to save this expenditure, and the Government of the day must belong the credit of having given facilities for some sort of Easter encampment to be held once more. As the statement published pointed out the estimated detail, the sum of £2000 was paid for the cost of the encampment, the expenses, and the Government has also promised an additional sum, bringing the whole up to £3870. As this sum is not sufficient to include the pay of the partially-paid men, General French has been forced to consider the possibility of the allowance for the men during the Easter manoeuvres. This simplifies the question for those who have to vote the money for military purposes. It becomes simply a matter of whether the Government will vote the £3870, and of whether the one is sufficient or not without the other. Colonel Waddell's case, and that of those who think with him, apparently is that both are necessary, but that the drills are, in fact, the more important. If, as General French, it would appear, he tried to do the best he could under extremely difficult circumstances. His expert advice has been provided, but a sufficient sum has not been tendered, and the Government has asked the officer has endeavoured to get the best possible results with the limited means at his disposal. It is said that a sum of £24,000 above the amount voted by Parliament is required to put things on a proper basis, and the Government has been asked to show that out of the about £19,600 would simply pass out of one pocket of the Government and into the other. But whether this is so or not, surely a business case is not an important one. The question would make it obvious that it would be better to spend a little more and yet the efficiency required than to spend about £180,000 a year on our military forces without, according to those best qualified to judge, any certainty assuring an equivalent return.

The seizure of Kiaochau in the peremptory manner Germany has chosen to adopt is not an event which under ordinary circumstances would be allowed to pass without firm remonstrance. It is not, however, a case in which any Power, however strong, is to be permitted to make forcible annexations in this high-handed way there need be no limit to aggression. China, it must be remembered, has long since been admitted to the family of nations, and her international rights which can only be ignored under conditions of international denationalisation, or with the consent of the Powers. With a Concert of Europe supposed to be able to exercise a restraining influence in the case of such a seizure, it is an event which a tribunal already exists to which a misunderstanding like this, present, if it be merely a misunderstanding, should be readily referable. If the seizure of this Chinese port and territory is a case of aggression, however, and not the result of a mere difference of opinion or a resulting indemnity between Germany and China, then the inference is plain that either the Concert of Europe is powerless, or else that it is inferior. In either case, the world is the weaker, and individuals concerned it is difficult to believe in the second explanation. Russia is the nation most closely concerned in this recent move on the part of Germany. Ever since the Sino-Japanese war, and the loss of the years of labouring with patient assiduity to secure footing in China, with facilities for the Siberian railway and a winter port for her fleet. The harbour of Vladivostok is now blocked for several months of the year by the ice, and the German designs in the Pacific may be the presence of her fleet there sufficiently proves that they have been kept in view for a long while—it is clear that little can be done towards realising them until a sufficient number of interests are involved. Germany has no such interest, yet in a day she has secured what Russia has for years been manoeuvring to obtain. France is said to have had designs on Foochow for a long while past, yet nothing has come of it. It is not, however, a case of negotiation, and England has for years rested contented at Hongkong.

The report cabled as coming from Shanghai, with one regarding the attitude of Russia that justifies the inference that the Chinese Government is in the mystery of the Powers' impassivity. Regarding Russia, it has been stated that her friendly relations with China have been strengthened, and that China considers Russian interference in German action. Ever more definite is the entrance of the Russian squadron into Port-Arthur, and the statement, through the St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Times," that Russia is competent to take the place of China in the Far East. There is little difficulty in understanding what this means. The existence was for some time supporting of a secret treaty with China, permitting Russia to take her Siberian railway by the shortest route, and to have a free access to an open harbour in the Gulf of Pechili. Count Cassini denied the existence of such an understanding, but it is now admitted. Port-Arthur is understood to cover the terminus point of the railway, and it seems clear

n of Germany has

used as a pretext for securing the port against interference. Then was the British Government to be asked to give the Foreign Office its consent to regard Rasmussen as a foreigner, and to take account with respect to the aggression on the Auk-chau as a foreign conclusion, a statement which received support from the Vienna press of a few days ago. But the British Government, and Germany and Russia as co-operating in the Far East, so that we are left to infer that the most powerful nations of the world are on one reason why the Concert of Europe does not interfere at the present juncture in aid of China. The Powers are busily engaged in making the most out of the situation. France, again, bound up with Russia by her much-vaunted alliance, though it remains to be seen how French will play into the hands of Russia for the benefit of Russia in this position. There are only two other Powers in the Concert, and one of them, the not European, but Asiatic, Japan, is too busy to give up her hold on the vast, unpopulated peninsula. We learn by cable that there is considerable excitement among the Japanese over the recent advances in China, and Japan is by no means likely to be deterred in her present attitude of a question which must be settled far away from the bases of European powers.

There remains the attitude of England with regard to this question. It is not clear whether the British Government appears to have made no sign, or whether there is now no doubt that she is another of the many important questions which have come before the Foreign Office during her tenure of office. It will call for a new effort on her part at early in the new year. For several years past the opening of the new campaign has seen the Foreign Office contented by difficult questions, and the only occasion is not likely to form an exception. It is in the European Concert England has surrendered her right of initiative in regard to the Far East, at least as completely as she has done regard to Turkey. As matters stand, the European Concert has tied her hands by diplomatic considerations while they help themselves freely wherever they have a mind to do so. There is one alternative to the possibility that Great Britain will assume the course of events in the Far East to Turkey. It is suggested by rumour from Shanghai which speaks of an invitation from China to England to assume a position in the valley of the Yang-tse and other great Rivers. Improbable as this appears, it revives, of course, in which enlarged form, an understanding with China under the Chefoo Convention, which would place the English special trading rights up that river, which were afterwards virtually annihilated. Of course there is a great difference between such an understanding and a protectorate, especially should the Chinese Government be asked to refer this to their Court to Nanking. It is stated in a cable which we published this morning that Great Britain will do so and a *quid pro quo* if China grants concessions to other Powers. Such a move would place England in a position to change the situation, and at all events the cables which we publish to-day, it is interesting enough both in itself and its possibilities to make its developments awaited with curiosity.

It might be apparent to the reader that a list of municipalities that one thing urgently required is a more effective system of municipal accounts. Distribute blame as we may, we are bound to acknowledge responsibility upon municipal auditors, officers and aldermen, and the too frequent and too large inaccuracies in these accounts, at all events for so the expensive special audits by the Government or at municipal expense, or in some order or at municipal expense, it is to be said, that the extent of misappropriation of municipal funds which has shaken the confidence in our municipal accounts. It robs the taxpayer of the money. The matter of more thorough auditing of these accounts has been often discussed. A year or two ago Mr. Coghlan devised a special system of bookkeeping, and some difficulty was experienced in the early meetings of the Municipal Association this is a leading item. In Victoria there has been a list of municipal books. Something of the kind would be demanded here, and it would be a good idea, auditing is expected, but it is essential as a check upon undutiful or incompetent bookkeeping, and what municipal reformers will prefer to ask themselves is whether it could not be better to pay for a search-examination of public receipts and expenditure than find some method that the ordinary local audit has failed to reveal defalcations of hundreds of pounds extending over many years, and the Government by the Government which subsidises municipalities, treasury Inspectors go up and down the country at irregular intervals to thoroughly investigate departmental accounts, and they may come when they will, and they may pay a visit to the local council-chambers.

The weak point in the policy of the Queensland meat-raisers which was attacked by Mr. J. A. Linley's article tendered to him on yesterday, is that more or less present in all export produce interests. Mr. Linley explained that in Queensland every man has his "axe to grind," a not unusual predilection, perhaps, and one which has been known to cause the enmeshment of persons engaged in other branches of commerce outside of the meat industry. At the same time it is not possible to grind your axe so recklessly as to use the same very metaphor, and the meat market is not your own, and it is not to your benefit. It seems that it is really the case with the Queensland meat trade just now, and more or less so that of this colony. Injudicious competition results in the fluctuation of prices on the London market, with the consequence that the British buyer, who desires nothing so much as uniformity, desires to look as much as all Australian buyers. The same complaint has been heard in connection with wool and sheepskins of our produce; and it seems a pity that it should be so. In the export trade we have heard from merchants how our wares have been prejudiced by the varying quality of the goods, and that there can be no doubt that uniformity is the essence of this sort of contract. The times too busy for many trials to be given of anything in these days, and a lack of colonial meat or butter, and the desire of bad reputation in the home

harm all down.

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CHRISTMAS EVE, 1897.

THE LITTLE FOLKS' ANNUAL TREASURY

C. G. HATTE'S
GREAT POLL AND TO
EXHIBITION
and
DISPLAY OF
XMAS PRESENTS.
BEAUTIFUL LACE GOODS.

GLOVES. HOSIERY.

PARAGRAPHES

CHRISTMAS EVE, 1897.

THE LITTLE FOLKS' ANNUAL TREASURY

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PARAGRAPHES

SILK HANDKERCHIEFS.

TOILETTE SOAPS.	SCENTS
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DOLLS, DOLLS, DOLLS
BOOKS, BOOKS.

OUR WONDERFUL XMAS CARD PACKETS.

HATTE
hopes the Ladies will excuse the Crash,
and bring Xmas Week, and
requests them to kindly SHOP EARLY.

FUN FOR THE LITTLE ONES.
A REAL LIVE FATHER XMAS.
Musical Selections by the Phonograph.
and
CHOICE BARGAINS FOR ALL.
16,000 RE-ATTENTIVELY MOUNTED

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BOROUGH CLUB, Aston, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

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Public are in for a GREAT TREAT.

HORDEEN'S, in the PITT-STREET

are trying to outshine the lot
BYING THE CHILDREN. XMAS TREES
comes last once a year. BRING THE CHILDREN
DOWN see the sights in Pitt-street; and

HORDEEN'S, in the PITT-STREET

POY DEPARTMENT. It has the
children's paradise since the Xmas Tree was
introduced. Toys of every description.
XMAS TREES, and ALL AGES.

We will remain open until to DECORATE THE
Evening.

Country Victuallers will have our Establishment
in Falmouth, London, Hull and Manchester,
agents, near the General Post Office, opposite
the Imperial Arcade, City Road, E.C.

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and Munster streets, Prague, November 19, 1941

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